

April 20, 2025 Easter Communion

The people of Gower Street United Church are committed to doing right by Jesus' teachings: loving, serving, giving generously in our local, regional, and global communities. We envision a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged.

We are dedicated to being welcoming and affirming, engaging participation of all, including people of any age, colour, race, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, family composition, and social or economic circumstances.



We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we live, work and worship as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Kaimuki (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.

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Bold indicates unison.
Rise in body and spirit as you prefer.
The projected text in white is a communal response.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

Voluntary:

Prelude on Duke Street
Prelude No. 2

Peeters
Oldroyd

We sing: VU 161 Welcome, Happy Morning

Hermas

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Let the light of Christ pierce the deep shadows of Good Friday.

May its light shine on us this most holy of days.

May its light be a beacon for us, renewing all that is good within us, all the good within our community.

Jesus our God is risen today! Hallelujah! Hallelujah, indeed!

Words of Welcome:

No matter who you are, where you come from, how you come to be here, what you believe or what you are questioning, you are welcome in fullness.

Gathering Words:

In the twilight of dawn, as night gives way today,

may our faith in Jesus sustain us in our struggle.

In the mystery of the tomb, as death gives way to life,

may the peace of Jesus comfort us when we despair.

In the promise of the garden, as fear gives way to joy,

may the hope of Jesus renew our lives this day.

In the presence of the risen Jesus, with new life proclaimed, triumphant and abundant,

may the love of Jesus break into our lives once more. Hallelujah!

Gathering Prayer:

Resurrecting God, we bless you on this Easter dawn.

You brought us safely through the night, waking us from sleep, that we might be here to wait with the women at the tomb and receive the astonishing news that Jesus is risen.

Open our hearts to your abundant grace as we gather in your name, for Jesus is risen.

Hallelujah! Amen.

We sing: VU 175 This Is the Day That God Has Made

Easter Joy

Prayer Of Transformation:

In response to the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love in Jesus, let us open our hearts fully and completely to God in prayer.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

The assurance of grace is today, Easter morning!

The assurance of grace is that Jesus' resurrection is our promise of new life.

The assurance of grace is the Spirit's courage, which calls us to risk becoming born of the Spirit, born into our full identity as God's

beloved, born into our lifelong privilege of becoming ever more loving, and born into the body of Christ—our family of choice and of relationship.

Praise and thanks be to God, who gives us this unbounded gift. Hallelujah! Hallelujah, indeed!

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 837 Psalm 118 (Parts One, Two, & Three)

God is my strength and my song.

Reader: Angeline Anstey

A reading from the Gospel: John 20:1-18

Mary and Simon Peter find the empty tomb.

We sing: VU 166 Joy Comes with the Dawn

Dawn

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR MINISTRY

You can offer your financial gifts to Gower Street United Church in many ways. As you enter/leave the sanctuary, there are offering plates where you may lay your offerings. You can also continue to drop off offerings in the secure mailbox outside the church office or you can donate via E-Transfer, using the email address gsuc@nl.rogers.com. You can also scan the QR code on your mobile device to be brought directly to our website page.



Gathering our Gifts:

We sing: VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

Offering Prayer:

Here, O God, we offer our very selves and the fruit of our labours. **Bless both us and our gifts for your purpose in the world, transforming others as we are also transformed. In giving, may we also learn how to receive, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We Sing: VU 467 One Bread, One Body (v. 1, 2 with refrain)

One Bread, One Body

My friends in Jesus, as we gather at Jesus' Table, a table that touches all places, always, let us join in a statement of our shared faith.

Affirmation of Faith

VU p. 918

Jesus is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God, Source of Life and Love.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,

you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description.

Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,

you are creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights when the powers of death have done their worst, your love has never deserted us.

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus, risen to life, eternal as your love. With the women at the tomb, we raise the strain of gladness.

Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!

The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom. And so, we rejoice with all your people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen One, who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers:

loving what he loved, living what he taught, and striving to be his faithful servants in our time and place.

In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying, "This is the new covenant; remember me."

We do remember. We remember his life of love, friendship, teaching, dying, and rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower.

So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community, we may taste and see your goodness.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Great Amen:

MV 205

Prayer for our world and the prayer of Jesus

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

The body of Jesus,

the bread of life.

The love of Jesus,

the cup of blessing.

The gifts of God for the people of God,

Thanks be to God!

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion:

May we who have tasted new life, drunk the new covenant and stood by an open tomb in awe;
may we who are blessed, become a blessing for each other, for ourselves, and for the world.
Hallelujah! Amen.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 155 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

We go out into the world:

Go out with joy this Easter morning!

May the hope and power of this holy day strengthen us.

Let your hallelujah's ring! Hallelujah! Amen!

May the blessings of God who created us in love, redeemed us in Jesus Christ, and sustains us by the power of Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us, both now and forevermore. Amen.

We sing: VU 161 Welcome, Happy Morning (vs.1)

Herman

Postlude: Christ ist Erstanden

J.S. Bach

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent/Easter 2025, Year C.

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter

Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Board Chair: Patrick Griffin

To The Glory of God

Donations to the Operating Fund

In loving memory of **Florence and Donald Butler** from Donna Butler.

In loving memory of **parents Stanley & Mary Noftall, brothers Stanley & Bernard, sister Mary Elms & sisters in law Jackie, Esther, & Cynthia** from Darren & Brenda Martin & the Noftall family

In loving memory of **parents William & Addie Martin & sister Dana** from Darren & Brenda Martin

In loving memory of **grandparents, Stanley & Mary Noftall & Max & Muriel Vardy** from Russell, Sean & Nicole Vardy.

In loving memory of **Rudy Laite, Derick Power and other members of the Laite, Noftall and Kerrivan Families** from Cheryl Hanlon and Family.

In loving memory of **Alfred and Amelia Laite and other members of the Laite Noftall and Kerrivan Families** from Jeanette Dinn

Donations to the Roof and Restoration Fund

In loving memory of **the Whiteway, Wylie and Barrett families** from Ian Barrett

Donations to the Mission & Service Fund

In loving memory of **parents, grandparents & great-grandparents William & Mabel Jones, Harold & Annie Noel, brothers & uncles, Lloyd Jones & Selwyn Noel, and sister & Aunt Muriel King** from Darroch & Lois Jones, their children Nicole (Mathieu Larose), Stefan (Sara Slade) & Heather (Shane Rose) and their grandchildren Chloé Larose, Sophie Larose, Lincoln Rose, Anderson Rose, Sebastian Jones, and Dawson Jones.

Donations to the Gower Community Band

In loving memory of our dear parents **Russell & Patricia Burke**
from Phyllis & Gail.

In loving memory of our parents, **Marston and Elizabeth Cameron and Dennis and Margaret Murphy, and loved ones**
from Blair and Anita Cameron

Donations to Organ Fund

In loving memory of **Lester Goulding** from Elsie and family